

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**In the application of :** Sparks, Adrian  
**Serial No. :** 09/745,890  
**Filed :** December 21, 2000  
**For :** Load Sharing Nodes in a Network Utilising Shared Optical Protection  
**Examiner :** Tran, Dzung D.  
**Art Unit :** 2613  
**Customer number :** 23644

**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

Honorable Director of Patents and Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

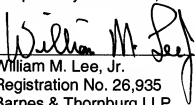
Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136, the applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time of two months to respond to Office Action mailed July 13, 2006.

Response will therefore be timely if filed with the Patent and Trademark Office no later than December 13, 2006. In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.17, the required fee of \$450 should be deducted from Deposit Account No. 12-0913.

November 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lee, Jr.  
Registration No. 26,935  
Barnes & Thornburg LLP  
P.O. Box 2786  
Chicago, IL 60690-2786  
(312) 214-4800  
Fax (312) 759-5646